

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities  
Minutes of October 12, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Keith Willette at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room A.

**Members in Attendance**

Keith Willette, Chair  
Gail Sokolowski, Vice-Chair  
Barbara Smith, Secretary  
Loretta Henry, Senior Center Liason  
Jerry Berrier, Communication and Web Site Liason  
Dan Morgado, Town Manager

**Members not in Attendance**

None

**Guests**

Jack Perrault, Town Engineer  
Joe Scampini, Shrewsbury Resident

**Town Liason Report**

Mr. Morgado brought in Mr. Jack Perrault, Town Engineer to address the issue of an, audible traffic signal being installed on Maple Avenue across from Town Hall and the Senior Center.

Mr. Perrault stated from the Uniform Traffic Control Devices a nationwide manual which addresses issues such as signal devices, signage and pavement markings. Installation of all traffic control signals have to meet a set of criteria such as, an average volume of pedestrian traffic 100 or more pedestrian traffic every 4 hours or 190 pedestrians of any one hour and fewer of 60 gaps per hours per traffic stream. These don't meet Maple Avenue criteria.

Mr. Willette asked about specific provisions regarding access to government buildings

Mr. Perrault said there was none except for school buildings due to heavy pedestrian volume. Mr. Willette, Mr. Scampini and Ms. Henry also inquired about lack of respect to pedestrians at crosswalks and if something could be done about that issue with perhaps installing cones at those sites or a blinking light. Mr. Morgado stated that Maple Avenue is a state road and would be difficult to meet the criteria in getting warrants past for those types of installations and the difficulty in establishing whether the state or town assumes the cost and responsibility of maintaining those sites. Loretta Henry also expressed concern about the lack of vehicles stopping at crosswalks and particularly in front of the Pantry Hen market and the Post Office and the danger that imposed. Dan Morgado said he would address the concerns of the commission members with Chief Sampson of the police department about monitoring that corner. Mr. Perrault left the meeting after presenting his report.

Town Manager Dan Morgado reported that both the Froshinn Club and SAC have agreed to have the railings installed on the ramps at these sites by election day to provide safer access to all town residents and keeping in compliance with IDEA. The cost and work for the handrails will be incurred by the Town of Shrewsbury (estimated at a cost of less than \$1,000).

Mr. Morgado also reported that two handicapped parking spaces have been provided in front of the Trader Joe's market and a curb cut will be installed at Spring street prior to election day ,and also a ramp has been installed at the Town Garage site. He also reported that he is currently working to resolve two other issues which is a designated handicapped parking space in front of Mass Health and Fitness and the problem with snow removal during the winter months at White City Shopping Center causing a blocking of handicapped parking spaces. Mr. Morgado left the meeting after presenting his report.

### **Appointments**

None

### **Phone Log**

No messages to report. Gail Sokolowski said she would e-mail the directions to all commission members on how to access the messages. She also stated that she did not hear back from the Worcester resident concerning the availability of disability housing in the Metro West area and also had not

gotten a call back from the Housing Authority regarding this issue.

### **Bills**

None

### **Member Discussion**

Jerry Berrier reported that he had tried the new voting machines for the visually impaired and was impressed on how easy and accessible they were to use. He did not require any assistance to vote after a brief orientation. He also reported that he had a discussion with Anne Dagle, Town Clerk about these machines and she was very knowledgeable about this technology. However, they have not yet been authorized for use in the State of Massachusetts.

### **Old Business**

Lou Boersma wasn't in attendance to report on the status on the issue of inaccessibility of wheelchairs on the sidewalk on the east side of Grafton Street. Mr. Boersma was going to address this issue with the town engineer. Ms. Sokolowski brought up the issue of that area possibly being part of the Historic District and the difficulties that might impose. Ms. Sokolowski reported that the Emergency Preparedness Program had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Our next meeting will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Barbara Smith